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COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE LEGAL COUNSEL

I should like to thank you for your letter dated 29 July 1992, informing me about the measures taken by you, upon the instruction of the Secretary-General, concerning the handling of the request for an entry visa for H.E. Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who wished to attend the regular session of the Economic and Social Council.

I would appreciate it further if my letters of 7 and 24 July 1992 could be circulated as documents of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Chairman of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the current session of the Economic and Social Council has been prevented from attending the session by the authorities of the host country. The application for entry visa for H.E. Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was submitted to the United States Mission to the United Nations nearly one month before the opening of the session. However, as of today, the United States Mission has not received any indication from Washington on whether or when the visa will be issued.

It should be noted that Deputy Minister Mottaki, who is in charge of United Nations affairs in the Ministry, attended many United Nations meetings in New York, including last year's session of the Economic and Social Council. However, the host country did not issue a visa for him to attend the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly or the current session of the Economic and Social Council. In both cases, the host country has failed not only to provide any reason for its refusal to issue a visa, but also even to inform the Islamic Republic of Iran whether the visa will be issued; that is, the entire three-month duration of the General Assembly was not sufficient time for the authorities of the host Government to perform their treaty obligation.

Such arbitrary decisions, or lack thereof, by the authorities of the host country have not been limited to Deputy Minister Mottaki, but also to other high-ranking members of the Foreign Ministry, including the current Director-General for International Political Affairs as well as the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

These practices have in fact hampered the ability of my delegation to perform its functions as envisaged by the Headquarters Agreement. I request Your Excellency to take appropriate measures in order to put an end to these violations of the Headquarters Agreement by the host Government.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex II

LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, and pursuant to my letter No. 270 dated 7 July 1992 on the undue problems created by the Government of the host country for the proper functioning of my delegation, I have the honour to inform you that on 20 July 1992 the United States Mission to the United Nations informed me that authorization for an entrance visa for H.E. Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been issued.

You are already aware that on 4 June 1992 the request for Mr. Mottaki's visa had been submitted to the Government of the host country to enable him to attend, as the head of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the regular session of the Economic and Social Council (29 June-31 July), particularly the high-level segment of the session (6 to 8 July). It took the Government of the host country close to two months to issue an entrance authorization, and thereby it barred the head of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran from attending the high-level segment and practically the regular session of the Economic and Social Council as a whole. This practice by the Government of the host country has seriously hampered the proper functioning of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and is, in fact, a source of continued concern.

I would like to express appreciation for your efforts in this respect and to request Your Excellency to look into this matter in order to ensure that such problems do not occur again.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

The United States has made its views known to the United Nations Legal Counsel with regard to the application for a visa made by Manouchehr Mottaki. These views are as follows:

The United States recognizes its obligations under sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Headquarters Agreement to permit transit to the Headquarters district and to issue visas as promptly as possible irrespective of the relations existing between the United States Government and the visa applicant.

As a practical matter, reviewing visa requests from persons with questionable backgrounds takes time and there will be instances in which it will take a full 15 working days to complete the process. The intention of the United States, however, is to not exceed the 15-working-day limit.

In those cases in which there is an unusually large delegation from a country which has attempted in the past to send representatives who were coming for purposes outside the scope of United Nations business, it may not be possible to meet the deadline. The Iranian Mission to the United Nations requested facilitation of visas for over 100 persons to attend the United Nations General Assembly last fall. A request for such a large delegation creates a duplicitous appearance, especially when the request includes the names of several individuals who have been denied entry on previous occasions.

I would be grateful if you would have these views circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Alexander F. WATSON
Ambassador
Deputy Representative

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